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ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA
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May 1992

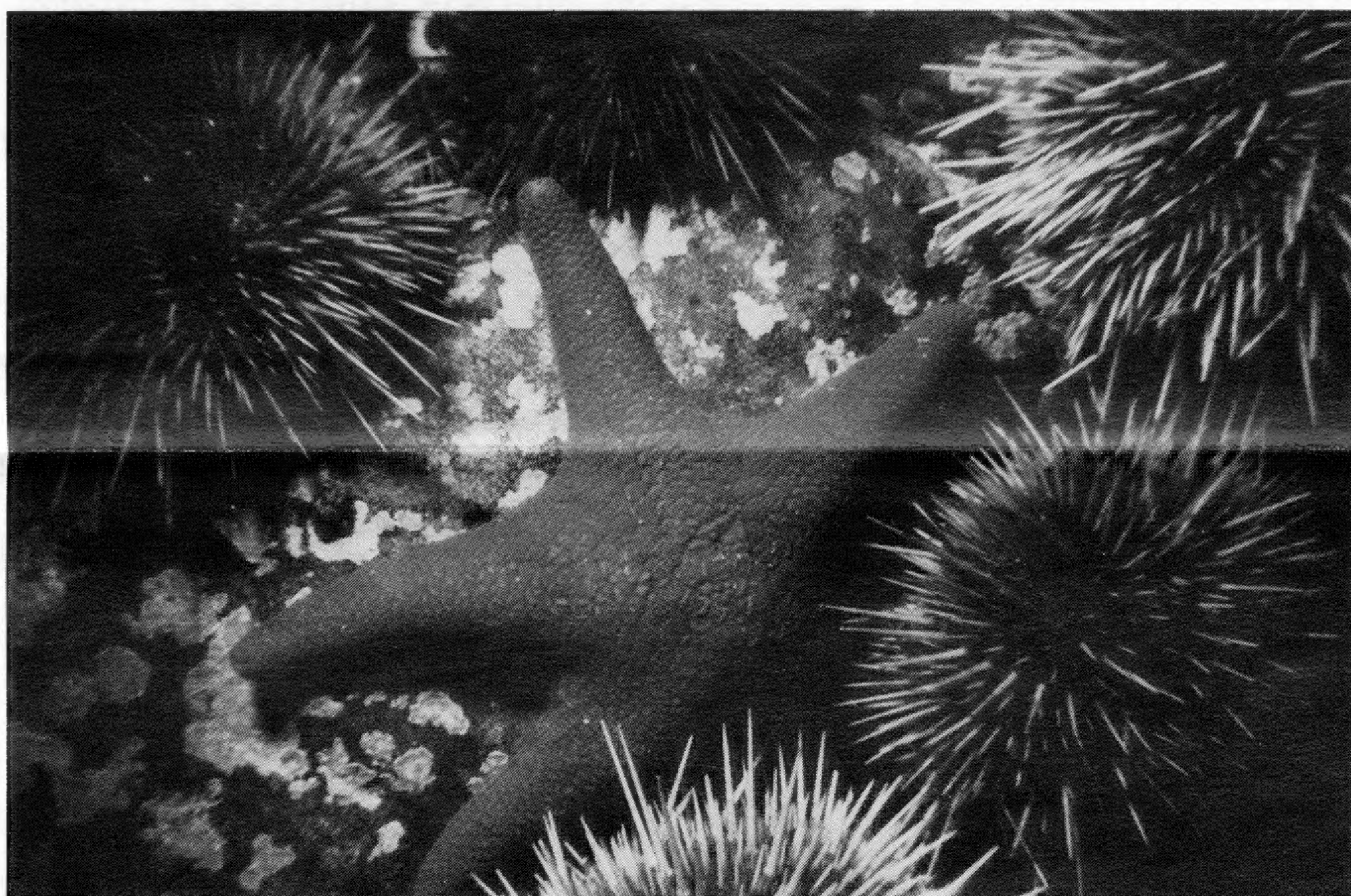
California
Academy
of Sciences



Members' Meetings

"The Wonder and Diversity of the Marine Life of Southern Africa"

May 13, 2 & 7:30 pm, May 14, 7:30 pm



Dr. Gary Williams

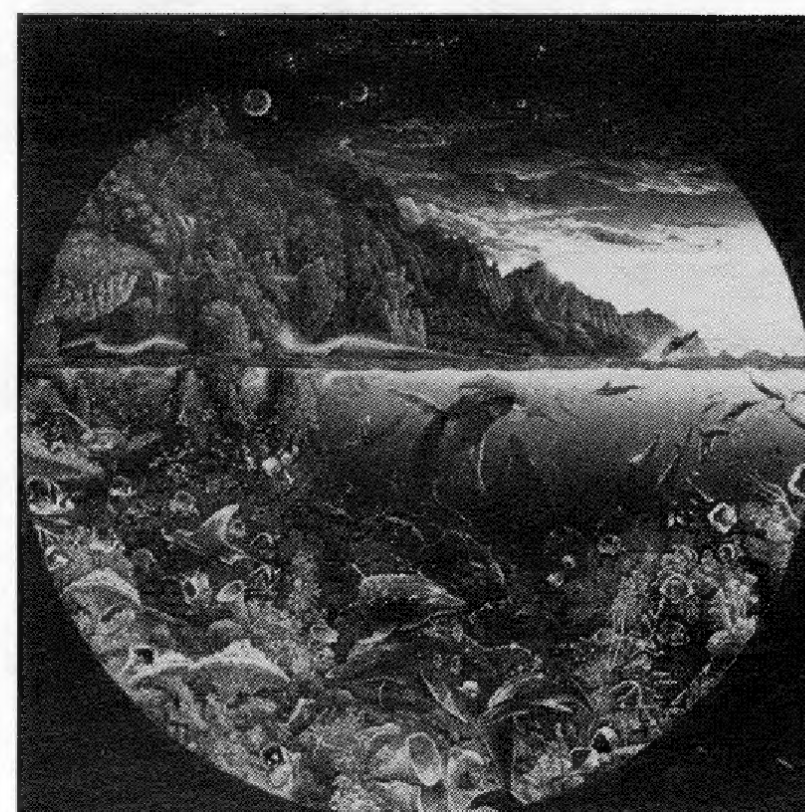
The marine fauna of southern Africa is rich and diverse. Two thousand species have been recorded from one bay near Cape Town alone, and about two thirds of the regional fauna occurs nowhere else on Earth. This richness can be attributed to several factors including the coming together of two oceans—the Atlantic and Indian—via two great ocean currents, the cold water Benguela and the warm water Agulhas. These and other factors make for a spectacular array of coastal habitats from cold water kelp beds to tropical coral reefs. This variety coupled with a beautiful coastline and a remarkable diversity of invertebrates, algae, sea birds and marine mam-

mals, makes the southern African coast one of the most interesting coastal regions in the world.

In the May Members' Meetings, Dr. Gary Williams will explore this beautiful and unique area. Dr. Williams is a Curator and Marine Biologist in the Academy's Department of Invertebrate Zoology. From 1983-1989 he was in southern Africa conducting research on the marine fauna and has some impressive slide images from his explorations there. This should be a fascinating meeting. Next month's meetings will be on June 10th and 11th and will feature Dr. Richard Hansen discussing the 2400-year-old Mayan city he unearthed in Guatemala.

Steinhart Benefit featuring Robert Lyn Nelson

June 26, 6-9 pm



Robert Lyn Nelson

"Time For Unity"

In cooperation with Lahaina Galleries, renowned underwater artist, Robert Lyn Nelson, will be at the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium on Friday, June 26th for a special poster signing and reception to benefit the Aquarium. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet this noted artist who illustrates his special vision of underwater environments with a unique style of "enhanced realism."

The reception costs \$35 and proceeds will benefit the Steinhart's Endangered Species Breeding Program. Posters of Robert Lyn Nelson's work will be available for purchase. Signed posters will be \$35 and personalized posters will be \$50. Enjoy a rare opportunity to meet this noted artist and explore the Steinhart Aquarium in the evening.

Please use the order form below to order tickets for this special event.

Steinhart Benefit with Robert Lyn Nelson Friday, June 26th, 6-9 pm

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____
Number of tickets \$35 _____
Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Steinhart Benefit
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

Traditional Arts



Raices de Mexico

Travel to the far corners of the world without leaving Golden Gate Park! The Academy's Traditional Arts programs are on Saturdays at 1 pm in Wattis Hall or Morrison Auditorium and are free after general admission. This program is made possible through generous funding from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation.

May 2 — Judy Frankel, Gerry Tenney and Achi Ben-Shalom perform Jewish instrumental music and songs in three languages—Yiddish, Hebrew, and Ladino (Sephardic).

May 9 — *Raices de Mexico*, a dance ensemble of adults and children, presents traditional folk dances that reflect the regional diversity of Mexican culture.

May 16 — Visiting the Bay Area from New Mexico, Greg Lewis demonstrates design techniques of Southwest Indian silver and turquoise jewelry, skills which he learned from his grandfather in Acoma Pueblo.

(No programs for the remainder of the month.)

Young Audiences

The Academy hosts exciting programs for Young Audiences one Sunday a month in the Morrison Auditorium. On May 24 at 1 pm youngsters can enjoy a multimedia theatrical performance

Research at the Academy

At the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Luis Baptista, Curator and Chairman of Ornithology and Mammalogy, was asked to join the board of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. Dr. Baptista has accepted and will chair the Fulbright Scholar Program for Latin America.

* * *

The Herpetology Department recently received funding for the Charles Stearns Grant-in-Aide for Herpetological Research. This is intended for annual funding to allow graduate students to visit the Academy to study the collections.

* * *

Dr. Robin Lawson of the Academy's Osher Laboratory for Molecular Systematics has received a National Science Foundation grant to study gene flow in Lake Erie snake populations in cooperation with Dr. Richard King of the University of Northern Illinois. He has also received a grant to study salamander populations on Alcatraz Island from Golden Gate National Recreation Area in collaboration with David Martin of San Jose State.

May Madness

Just a reminder to our members that May is one of our busiest months here at the Academy. Try to avoid the many school groups by visiting the Academy in the afternoon on weekdays.

where three singers/actors provide a look at America through the eyes of America's painters. Live music played on banjo, guitar, washboard and spoons is enhanced by slides projected on a large screen.

Lecture "Saving Caribbean Species"

**June 4,
7:30 pm**



c. Robert Rattner, 1988

On the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, a spectacular endemic parrot, *Amazona versicolor*, had been reduced to 150 birds by the 1970's. This resulted from rapidly disappearing forest habitat and widespread apathy about wildlife and the environment. Thanks to the energetic efforts of an English ornithologist-turned-marketeer, the parrot has become the national bird of St. Lucia and is making a comeback.

Paul Butler, through "Conservation Education for the Caribbean," the program he directs for RARE (Rare Animal Rescue Effort) Center for Tropical Conservation, has helped local counterparts on eight Caribbean islands "sell" the idea of conservation to all segments of their islands' populations.

In this lecture, Mr. Butler will outline his strategy of "marketing" conservation and will describe the components of this successful approach to international conservation. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. Please use the coupon below to order your tickets.

| Ticket Order Form | |
|---|----------------------------|
| "Caribbean Species" | |
| June 4, 7:30 pm | |
| Name _____ | |
| Address _____ | |
| City _____ Zip _____ | |
| Daytime phone _____ | |
| Visa or Mastercard# _____ | |
| Exp. Date _____ | |
| Signature _____ | |
| Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: | |
| The Special Programs Office | |
| California Academy of Sciences | |
| Golden Gate Park | |
| San Francisco, CA 94118 | |
| Phone (415) 750-7128 | No Refunds No Exchanges |

Lectures



Keith Nyitray

The California Academy of Sciences and the Bay Chapter, Sierra Club present: "Crossing Alaska"

"Crossing Alaska," a special slide-illustrated lecture by Keith Nyitray will be presented at the Academy's Morrison Auditorium on Tuesday, May 12th at 7:30 pm, and at Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley, on Wednesday, May 13th at 8:00 pm.

In January 1990, Nyitray became the first person to traverse the entire length of the Brooks Range of Alaska. The Brooks Range encompasses eleven distinct mountain regions and is probably the finest remaining true wilderness area in the world.

Tickets are \$5. Seats at Wheeler Auditorium are reserved, and call (510) 653-6127 to order tickets. Please use the form below to order your tickets for the Academy.

| Ticket Order Form | |
|---|----------------------------|
| "Crossing Alaska" | |
| Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 pm | |
| Morrison Auditorium | |
| \$5 (seats not reserved) | |
| Name _____ | |
| Address _____ | |
| City _____ Zip _____ | |
| Daytime phone _____ | |
| Visa or Mastercard# _____ | |
| Exp. Date _____ | |
| Signature _____ | |
| Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: | |
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| San Francisco, CA 94118 | |
| Phone (415) 750-7128 | No Refunds No Exchanges |

"The Future of the West"

May 27, 7:30 pm

The modern American West has reached an historic watershed every bit as epochal as the closing of the frontier a century ago. The people of the region are redefining the West's distinctive natural resource policies, calling for a new approach that will protect the forests, rivers, wildlife, open range, and deep backcountry and, at once, respect and preserve its traditional Indian, ranching, and farming communities.

Professor Charles Wilkinson, the Moses Lasky Professor of Law at the University of Colorado, will celebrate the West in his program on May 27th in Morrison Auditorium. Professor Wilkinson, an award-winning writer and teacher, will read from *The Eagle Bird—Mapping a New West*, his recently published book of essays. Renowned author Wallace Stegner has called *The Eagle Bird*, "the best handbook I know for anyone who wants to know the history of the West and its improbable future."

The lecture will be followed by a booksigning and the Academy Store will be open before and after the program. Tickets are \$5 members/ \$7 non-members. Please use the coupon on this page to order your tickets.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and Carnival with the Academy

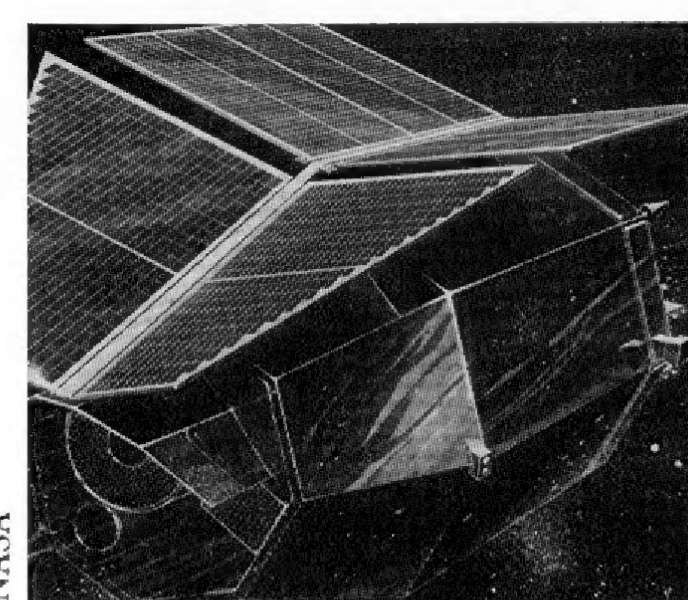
The Academy joins with the Comité Mexicano Civico Patriotico to celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* in the Golden Gate Concourse in front of the Academy on May 3 from 12:30 pm—3 pm. Join us for music, dance, and hands-on activities. The Academy also will highlight its Mexican exhibits.

The Academy also will be at Civic Center Plaza on May 2 and 3 when the Mission Economic and Cultural Association hosts their special *Cinco de Mayo* weekend. Events will run from 11 am—7 pm.

In anticipation of the *Celebrate! Caribbean Festival Arts* exhibit opening at the Academy on July 4th, the Academy will participate in the Mission Economic and Cultural Association's *Carnival* weekend on May 23 and 24 from 11 am to 7 pm on Harrison Street between 16th and 21st Streets. Come join us for a festive time!

| Ticket Order Form | |
|---|-----------------|
| "The Future of the West" | |
| May 27, 7:30 pm | |
| \$5 members | \$7 non-members |
| Name _____ | |
| Address _____ | |
| City _____ Zip _____ | |
| Daytime phone _____ | |
| Visa or Mastercard# _____ | |
| Exp. Date _____ | |
| Signature _____ | |
| Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: | |
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| California Academy of Sciences | |
| Golden Gate Park | |
| San Francisco, CA 94118 | |
| Phone (415) 750-7128 | |
| No Refunds/No Exchanges | |

Exploring the Universe "X-ray Visions of the Universe: Black Holes, Pulsars and Quasars"



May 19
7:30 pm

Einstein
Observatory

In a galaxy, far, far away, an object with temperatures over a million degrees is emitting x-rays. X-rays are produced by violent, energetic and explosive phenomena throughout the universe and have been detected in supernova remnants, quasars and black holes. X-rays are not visible to the eye nor to conventional telescopes. They are absorbed by our atmosphere and cannot be detected from the ground. It was not until 1962 when a rocket was launched high above the Earth's atmosphere, that the first nonsolar cosmic x-rays were detected.

Our best views of the x-ray universe have been obtained by NASA's Einstein Observatory, launched into Earth orbit in 1978. This satellite's sensitive x-ray telescope focused x-rays from celestial objects into vivid images for the first time, revealing more new and different x-ray sources than had ever been imagined.

On May 19th, Dr. Lynn Cominsky of Sonoma State University will present "X-ray Visions of the Universe: Black Holes, Pulsars and Quasars" in the Morrison Planetarium and will show computer images based on data received from the Einstein Observatory. She also will discuss the history of x-ray astronomy which is a relatively new branch of astronomy.

The program begins at 7:30 pm in the Planetarium. Tickets are \$2 each. Seats will also be available on a standby basis. For ticket information and details on how to order the Fall program, please call the "Universe" line at (415) 750-7129.

The Academy Celebrates International Space Year & Astronomy Day



c. Lynette Cook

"The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence"

International Space Year (ISY) commemorates 500 years of exploration and is the first year-long, world-wide celebration of humanity's future in space. Throughout the year, the Academy will highlight ISY in a variety of exhibits and events.

On May 9th, Astronomy Day, we will open the exhibit *Visions of the Universe*, a display of paintings by Bay Area space artists. From 3-5 pm in Cowell Hall, the artists will be available to discuss their artwork and their personal visions of the universe. The artists include: Morrison Planetarium artist Lynette Cook, J.T. Morrow, Linda Kulik, Garret Moore, Geoffrey Chandler, Beth Avery, Patricia Davis, Frank Lurz, and Carter Emmart. The exhibit will be shown through May 31st.

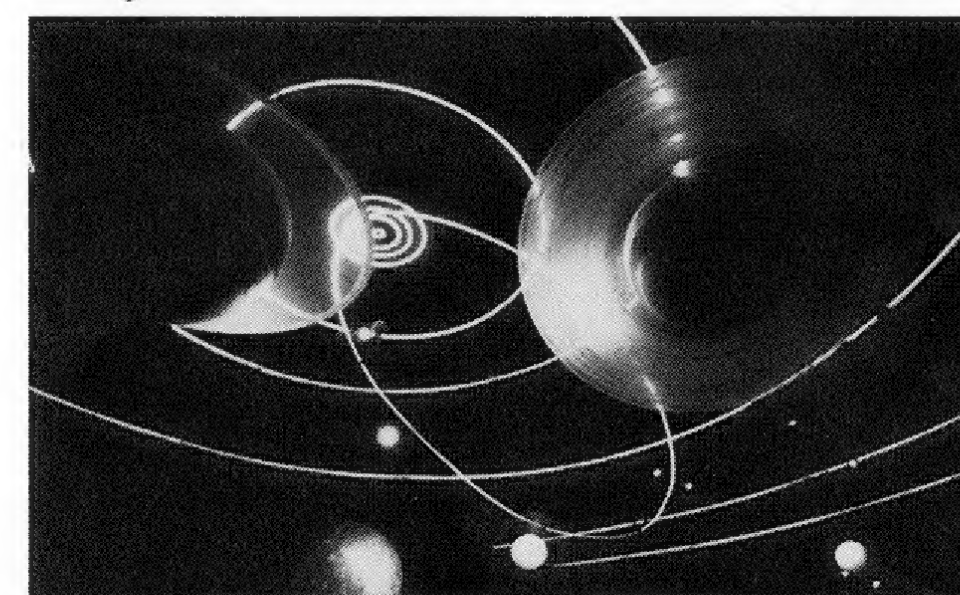
Other activities on Astronomy Day include viewing, under magnification, samples of lunar rocks and soil collected by Apollo astronauts from six different sites on the Moon. This is the closest most

people will get to our satellite! The samples will be available for viewing from 1-2 pm in the Science-in-Action Booth.

In the event of clear weather, the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers (SFAA) will set up solar telescopes for safe viewing of the Sun. They will be in the Whale Courtyard from 10 am to 5 pm. Members of SFAA also will co-sponsor, with the Planetary Society, a "planet walk" on the Concourse. Join them on a tour of the "solar system" and learn about each of our planetary neighbors.

The Academy's Education Department will sponsor a children's art project—a "space mobile" which students can cut out, thread together and hang. This will be a fun day for everyone!

Morrison Planetarium Sky Shows



CAS, Susan Middleton, 1989

At the Academy's Morrison Planetarium the feature show "Who's Out There?" continues through June 14th. This show explores our quest for life on other planets and describes what conditions must prevail for life to exist. It also examines the instruments used to detect signals from space. These shows run at 2 pm on weekdays, and 1, 2, 3 & 4 pm on weekends.

"Startalk," a tour of constellations, stars and planets visible in the evening sky, continues on weekends at noon. Call 750-7141 for more show information.

Academy Travel

Safari to Namibia & Botswana with Dr. Robert Drewes

August 5-23, 1992



Dr. Bob Drewes

Paddling a mkoro in the Okavango Delta.

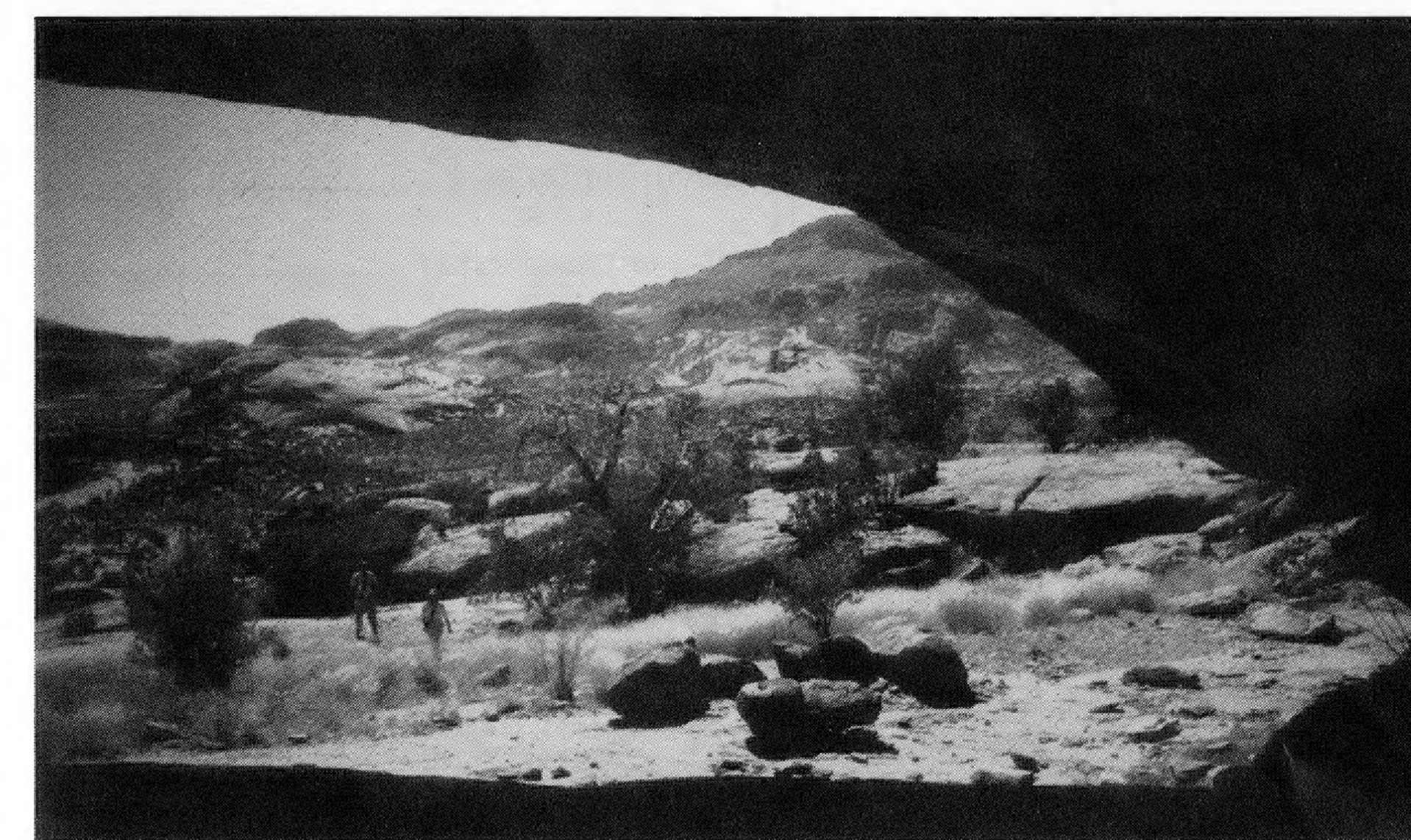
More than a safari, this exploration of Namibia and Botswana covers the full range of Academy travel experiences including anthropology, geology, ecology, and, of course, magnificent wildlife. Bob's vast experience in Africa will provide fascinating insights, great birding and—a lot of fun! We feature:

- "off-the-beaten-track" tented camps and beautiful lodges where attentive and knowledgeable hosts guarantee special experiences
- small-group game viewing in open land rovers, dug-out canoes, and on foot
- charter flights for minimal travel time between sites

- day rooms for layover in Frankfurt
- all meals included except for three "free day" lunches
- pre-trip "get acquainted" orientation at the Academy
- extensions and stop-overs available.

Space is limited to 13 places. Cost is \$8750 including airfare. Call Joanie Russell or Nancy Fuller at (415)-750-7222 now!

Late news...late news...Dr. Luis Baptista will be leading a trip aboard the *Polaris* through the Panama Canal to Costa Rica, December 20-28, 1992.



Dr. Bob Drewes

Cave in Central Namibia

Free First Wednesday

On May 6 help celebrate 1992 as the International Year of Space with Free First Wednesday evening programs. Come dressed as your favorite extraterrestrial! We will be having a costume contest at 7 pm for all those E.T.'s out there. All events (except food) are free.

5-8 pm — Enjoy a light supper at the "Restaurant at the End of the Universe" and listen to the music of the Jeff Pittson Trio. African Hall.

5-8 pm — Join us in a special hands-on project for kids highlighting the Galileo Project and its mission to Jupiter. Hohfeld Hall.

5-8 pm — Visit the Biodiversity Resource Center. Oceans Hall.

6-6:30 pm — Join the fun of storytelling, games and a short movie as Academy Science-in-Action interns perform "In Celebration of the Poles." Science-in-Action Booth, Hohfeld Hall.

6-8 pm — Come to the Discovery Room for interactive exhibits from the world of nature.

6:30 pm — *Concert Under the Stars*. Morrison Planetarium.

7:00 pm — COSTUME CONTEST. African Hall.

7:15 pm — Informal presentation of how to make telescopes from spare parts by Bob Levinson. Also, skyviewing with telescopes, weather permitting. Science-in-Action Booth, Hohfeld Hall.

These programs are made possible through the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Junior Academy

Children from ages 6 to 18 can enjoy the special classes and field trips being offered by the Junior Academy from July through August. A special field trip to Montana called "Digging Dinosaurs" is planned. Call 750-7100 to order your catalog.

*Time Dated Material
Please Expedite*

May 1992

Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm

*Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California 94118-4599
(415)221-5100*



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Calendar of Events

May

- 2 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 5 *Cinco de Mayo* celebration, 12:30-3 pm
- 6 Free First Wednesday, 5-8 pm
- 7 Symposium, "Science and the Public Trust,"
Sacramento Convention Center
- 9 Astronomy Day at the Academy
- 9 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 12 Lecture, "Crossing Alaska," 7:30 pm at
Morrison Auditorium, San Francisco
- 13 Lecture, "Crossing Alaska," 8 pm at
Wheeler Auditorium, Berkeley
- 13 Members' Meetings, 2 & 7:30 pm
- 14 Members' Meetings, 7:30 pm
- 16 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 19 "Universe" Series, 7:30 pm
- 24 Young Audiences, 1 pm
- 27 Lecture, "The Future of the West," 7:30 pm

June

- 4 Lecture, "Caribbean Conservation," 7:30 pm
- 10 Members' Meetings, 2 & 7:30 pm
- 11 Members' Meetings, 7:30 pm
- 26 Steinhart Benefit with Robert Lyn Nelson, 6-9 pm

Academy Store

